

Minutes

Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council: Monday 14 April 2025

Held at Ampfield Village Hall, 7:00pm to 8:35pm

Present

Members of Ampfield Parish Council:

Chairman Bryan Nanson
Vice Chairman Chris Ling
Cllr Martin Hatley
Cllr Graham Roads
Cllr Julie Trotter (also minute taker)

Others

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)'s Councillor Sally Yalden

Apologies

4696 Apologies were received from Cllr Julian Jones and Cllr Jason Reeves.

Previous Meeting

4697 The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 10 March 2025 were agreed and signed.

Minutes of Planning Committee

4698 The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of Monday 24 March 2025 were noted.

Matters arising from the Minutes

4699 None.

Declarations of Interest in the business for the Meeting

4700 None.

Test Valley Borough Council – Sally Yalden to report

4701 The report from Borough Councillor Sally Yalden was noted and is attached to these Minutes.

Public Participation – if necessary, the Council will adjourn for a maximum period of 20 minutes

4702 None.

Financial Matters

4703 **a. Bank reconciliation** – The Council received the bank reconciliation to the end of March 2025.

RESOLVED

The Council received the calculation of working capital to the end of March 2025.

RESOLVED

4704 **b. Accounts for payment** – It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
JN Landscapes: Landscaping at Burial Ground	£6,500.40
Wendage - service sewerage treatment plant	£ 496.80
Total (including VAT)	£6,997.20

RESOLVED

It was noted that the following payments had been made between Meetings:

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cllr Ling refund of expenses: telephone kiosk parts; pavilion water boiler	£ 686.80
Cllr Roads refund of expenses: Chapel Wood & Burial ground planting	£ 1,889.38
PWLB (recreation ground loan payment)	£ 3,016.65
ANBCC (shed and ARG improvements)	£ 4,939.40
Aaron24 boiler service at pavilion	£ 88.80
Craig Morris pest control	£ 150.00
TVBC grounds maintenance	£ 334.84
E.On	£ 112.92
Website	£ 11.99
Mobile wifi data	£ 8.00
Total (including VAT)	£11,238.78
Total payments	£18,235.98

RESOLVED**4705 c. Income and anticipated expenditure**

It was noted that the Council had received the following income during March 2025:

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Memorial fee	£ 111.00
Interest	£ 1,505.02
Ground rent Morleys Green	£ 3,375.00
Total (including VAT)	£ 4,990.02

RESOLVED

The Council received the report of expenditure against budget to the end of March 2025.

RESOLVED

4706 d. External Audit – consideration of conflict with BDO LLP

Our external auditors, BDO LLP have instructed us that "We will require confirmation each year that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP. Please ensure this is discussed at a meeting and minuted and evidenced".

There are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

RESOLVED

4707 e. Internal transfer of funds

£6,208 , the spend on Morleys Green 2024/25, to transfer from Morleys Green Commuted fund to APC general expenditure. In accordance with budget, £3000 to transfer from general expenditure to Asset Replacement.

RESOLVED

4708 f. Speed Limit Reminder contract

Simon Nightingale has informed us that the service he previously provided under his sole trader name of Simon Nightingale will in future be provided by a company that he has set up called Speed Sign Management Ltd. APC has been asked to confirm mutual agreement to terminate the existing contract that has been held under the sole trader name of Simon Nightingale and to sign the new contract. The Client contact details will be updated to reflect APC now using the Village Hall address.

RESOLVED

Recruitment of Clerk/RFO

4709 Kate Orange is to carry on as Locum Clerk until the end of the financial year in March 2025. Locum arrangements continue.

A recruitment campaign is in progress. Advertisements have been placed with a closing date of 18th May 2025. To date, two applications have been received.

Pollinator Pledge — update

4710 No update.

Recreation Ground / Pavilion

4711 a. Update

The pest controller has completed his work to eradicate the mole infestation.

APC has decided to deal with the fallen oak tree as agreed with the claimant in preference to going through our insurer – at a small cost to APC. APC will take charge of the work and organise the

necessary resources for the job. Cllr Martin Hatley is to manage it.

RESOLVED

Vice Chairman Chris Ling has obtained and fitted a replacement water boiler.

4712 b. **Wiring contract**

Following competitive tender, ALB Electrical have been selected to carry out wiring of the new ANBCC shed as well as the corresponding electrical work within the Pavilion. The quote was £2,475 including VAT. Work is to start tomorrow and will take two days.

RESOLVED

Chapel Wood

4713 a. **Update**

Cllr. Graham Roads reported that the new planting is being monitored and so far all plants have taken in spite of the dry weather. The bonfire site is ready to use, but it is too dry to light. A program for removal of rhododendron roots has begun.

Burial Ground

4714 a. **Update**

There has been a lack of rain but all except one yew are doing well. Dan of JN Landscapes has finished the work to restore the cruciform and has reseeded the area at the back of the burial ground.

Cllr. Graham Roads had been asked about reserving cremation plots. The advice is that any interested person should contact the clerk. There is also information on the website.

War Memorial

4715 a. **Addition of Tommy**

Cllr. Martin Hatley has been notified that Tommys are back in stock on the British Legion website. The British Legion recommended that two different sizes are used together. Cllr. Graham Roads thought that a second matching Tommy should be bought for the front corner of the War Memorial and we then take stock to consider perhaps ordering two larger ones later in the year. Cllrs. Hatley and Roads are to liaise over the purchase.

Knapp Lane residents were thanked for maintaining the War Memorial to a high standard. Cllr. Graham Roads said that he will commence rejuvenation of the plants around the memorial during the summer months.

RESOLVED

Morleys Green – Update

4716 The exchange of letters with solicitors was reported last month and there has been no reply and nothing to report on this since then.

Last month it was reported that ground rent payments were being received very late – over five months late. After an appropriate email was sent to the agents for the tenant, the March 2025 ground rent invoice for £3,375 issued 24th March 2025 was paid on 2nd April 2025.

Allotments

4717 a. Review vacancy situation

Cllr Julian Jones has purchased covers for the vacant allotments. There are three vacancies and no waiting list. We may consider offering existing allotment holders the option of a second plot.

Telephone Kiosk – Update

4718 Cllr. Julie Trotter said that the door is to be fitted back onto the kiosk soon.

Highways

4719 a. Update

No update.

4720 b. Cycle path proposal

No update.

Resilience

4721 No update.

Acquisition of ampfield.gov.uk domain and transition of website to that domain

4722 No update.

Newsletter progress

4723 The preparation is on schedule and the newsletter is looking good. Cllr. Hatley expressed a wish to include more information about what to do in the event of an emergency in the newsletter article about defibrillators. He will contact Cllr. Reeves after the meeting with additional information.

Parish Assembly 19 May – Progress

4724 No update.

Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

4725 There has been some correspondence regarding the next stages of the Oak Processionary Moth treatment, which has been forwarded to Cllr. Graham Roads.

Correspondence and Communications

4726 Louisa Rice has requested that her colleagues in TVBC Community and Neighbourhood Planning would like to attend an APC meeting. It is expected that they will attend the meeting on 9th June 2025.

Next Meeting

4727 The next ordinary Meeting will be held at Ampfield Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 12 May 2025.

Chairman -----

Date -----

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March 2025 Report (APC) from Cllr Sally Yalden Test Valley Borough Councillor

Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions. There were two cases in March.

Former North Hill Sawmill Yard, Baddesley Road. The application sought approval of details pursuant to condition No.2 of outline planning permission Ref 17/01615/OUTS, granted on 27 September 2018. The application was refused by notice dated 2 May 2023. **The appeal is dismissed.**

Land adjacent 4 Chilworth Close, Chilworth. The development proposed was described as ‘Construction of a detached chalet bungalow with associated access, parking and landscaping (revised scheme)’. **The appeal is allowed.**

Councillor community grant

The grant left from 2024/25 of **£668.51** has been carried over. This means the councillor community grant for the next financial year is in the ballpark figure of about **£2,100** (tbc) including the carry over.

Planning update

There was a confidential ward session meeting on the 10th of April to discuss potential site options in the revised Local Plan with members from Blackwater ward: Cllr Adams-King and Cllr Bailey. Wellow has a Neighbourhood Development Plan which currently allocates a small amount of housing. The meeting was organised by TVBC’s planning policy team: David Bibby and Clare Roberts.

Extraordinary Council Meeting: 19 March (LGR and Devolution)

A meeting was called to discuss an interim plan to submit to the government on local government reorganisation. The plan outlined the collaborative efforts of 15 councils. The process so far has involved council leaders and chief executives.

A summary:

- • Isle of Wight: Proposed to remain separate due to exceptional circumstances.
- • Costs: Estimated to be significant due to the region's size and complexity.
- • Devolution: Commitment to ensuring ‘balanced representation’ in new authorities.
- • Some challenges include:
 - Clarity on boundary changes and the minimum unitary population figure.
 - Confirmation of the Isle of Wight's status as a separate unitary authority.
 - Support for addressing critical service demands and financial sustainability.

A request for an extension to the end of November on plans has been submitted as those councils who had requested to join the fast-track devolution (Hampshire) were given two months less than those not joining the fast lane – and those councils still having in elections this May.

From a personal perspective, those councils which have already gone through LGR like Somerset continue to be at risk even after becoming a unitary authority. For example, a recent report and input from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) found Somerset Council to have many 'key risks' that mean it may need exceptional financial support from the Government.

Meanwhile, Hampshire County Council's forecast deficit has increased to £216 million per year.

Revised Local Enforcement Plan 2025

The council's existing Local Enforcement Plan was approved in 2019 and has been revised. The new plan sets out how alleged breaches will be dealt with in a balanced and proportionate way.

The enforcement team will proactively monitor selected developments to make sure they are built out in accordance with the planning permission and have created a new role to do this work, which is also referred to in the plan.

The new plan is available on the Council's website. Here is a link if you are reading this online:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-services/planning/guidance/planning-enforcement-and-appeals>

'Operation Wolf' - stop and search On Friday 14 March, two environmental officers represented the council at a successful Operation Wolf at Hunts Farm, Timsbury.

"Operation Wolf", in Hampshire, is a multi-agency initiative focused on tackling vehicle crime, particularly fly-tipping, by targeting both fly-tipping hotspots and thoroughfares used for illicit waste transport.

The team were focussed on vehicles carrying waste and checking for valid licenses. Over 30 vehicles were stopped by the police and brought into Hunts Farm Carpark for checks. All vehicles carrying waste were checked by the team, with all but one providing the correct certification.

Councillors secure £2,000 for Romsey Young Carers

Romsey Young Carers has received a £2,000 boost from councillors of A&B, CNR, Valley Park, North Badds and Blackwater councillors to support young people who care for family members. The funding was secured through the Multi-Ward Grant scheme to provide respite and support for young carers.